

**INDIANA DUNES NATIONAL LAKESHORE
LONG RANGE INTERPRETIVE PLAN
FOUNDATION WORKSHOP, Day 2
March 4, 2010
WORKSHOP NOTES**

Introduction. The second session of the Foundational Elements workshop of the Long Range Interpretive Planning Process (LRIP) for Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore was held 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 4, 2010, at the Indiana Dunes Environmental Education Center.

Participants. Representatives from these groups included:

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore
Porter County CRVC
Friends of Indiana Dunes
Chicago Wilderness
Dunes Learning Center
Chicago Astronomical Society
DLC
Field Station Cooperative Preschool
National Parks Cons. Assn.
Friends of Indiana Dunes
IU Northwest, DLC Board
NPS - Harpers Ferry Center
South Shore Convention and Visitors Authority
Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana

Federal Advisory Committee Act briefing.

During the first session of the day, a brief overview of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) was presented. This law is important to be aware of when assembling a group for discussion or consultation on NPS matters. In general, we (NPS) are not allowed to appoint or establish any council, panel, conference, task force, or similar group for the purpose of obtaining consensus advice or recommendations on issues or policies that should be done through a legally established formal Federal Advisory Committee.

The Comprehensive Interpretive Plan Workshop and interpretive planning process for Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore is set up for public participation through a series of meetings with stakeholders, park visitors, and the general public. This is an opportunity for the public to provide individual ideas and suggestions that park officials may consider in the development of the plan. Ideas and suggestions from the various meetings are brought forward to subsequent meetings. The stakeholder meeting results are not/were not developed as proposals or recommendations, but as a collection of ideas.

Revised significance statements. Significance statements from Day 1 were revised as follows. They remain in draft form:

1. Indiana Dunes NL is the birthplace of American ecology, the place where Henry Cowles, the “father of ecology” described ecological succession for the first time. The park remains the textbook example of the process, with all stages of dune succession visible within a short distance.
2. Henry Cowles, a botanist from the University of Chicago, published an article entitled "Ecological Relations of the Vegetation on Sand Dunes of Lake Michigan," in the Botanical Gazette in 1899 that brought international attention to the intricate ecosystems existing on the dunes, beginning a legacy of scientific inquiry and education that continues today.
3. Indiana Dunes NL provides unique opportunities for observing and understanding how Lake Michigan was created and how dunes are formed.
4. Access to the lakeshore at Indiana Dunes NL provides opportunities for understanding today’s Lake Michigan as a vital national resource, as well as a place of recreation.
5. The proximity of a wide variety of ecosystems, including lake, shore, dunes, wetland, bogs, fens, marshes, woodlands, climax forest, prairies, oak savannah, and rivers, at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore provides visitors with an unusual opportunity to observe ecological diversity within a single park.
6. Indiana Dunes NL is an ecological crossroads for plant diversity, featuring an outstanding 1,400 different plant species within its 15,000 acres, many in unique combinations.
7. The arc of history at Indiana Dunes NL involves 10,000 years of changing land use patterns as human beings interacted with the natural world and struggled to reconcile the needs of urbanization, industry, and conservation.
8. The pioneering research on the physics of flight by Octave Chanute, culminating in his historic glider flight at Indiana Dunes, signaled the coming dawn of the age of aviation.
9. Indiana Dunes NL, in effect among the first urban initiative parks, provides opportunities for millions of urban dwellers to experience outstanding and varied outdoor recreational activities, access to Lake Michigan beaches, and scenic beauty within a few miles of their homes, and marks a pioneering effort to bring national parks to the people.
10. The beauty of Indiana Dunes, shared by artists of many kinds, helped inspire people to save the park and continues to inspire artistic creativity and to foster stewardship.

Please refer to the handout, “Developing a Set of Primary Interpretive Themes” and other national park examples.

Theme structure. The group developed the following draft theme structure:

- Theme 1: “Ecology”
- Theme 2: “Henry Cowles and the birthplace of ecology”
- Theme 3: “Human history of the park”
- Theme 4: “People and the park”
- Theme 5: “Preservation”

Draft theme statements. The group began brainstorming the following statements:

Theme 1, “Ecology.” Factors that include geological processes, climate, weather, and geographical location came together at Indiana Dunes to create remarkable species diversity within a variety of ecosystems, providing outstanding opportunities to appreciate the rich ecological relationships that nurture and sustain our civilization.

Theme 2, “Henry Cowles and the INDU tradition of scientific inquiry and learning” – TO COME.

Theme 3, “Human history,” TO COME

Theme 4, “People and the Park.” Situated close to one of America’s largest metropolitan areas, Indiana Dunes NL provides a natural setting for millions of people to experience scenic beauty, artistic inspiration and recreational opportunities, reminding us of the costs and benefits of urbanization, and of our need as humans to seek renewal of body, mind and soul.

Theme 5, “Preservation.” Indiana Dunes NL, the scene of intensive public interest and passion regarding its preservation for over 100 years, demonstrates the national struggle between the needs of urbanization, industry and conservation, reflects the historical national and state park preservation movement, and serves as both model and “cautionary tale” in the fields of resource acquisition, preservation and restoration.

Addition to underserved audiences: illiterate adults

Addition to Issues: Access and boundaries: two highways in the park may add to visitor confusion.